

Today's Topics:

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Madison Electronics
Phone Patch Construction question
Soldering PL259 connectors? Why bother!

Date: Wed, 25 Oct 89 12:32:29 BST

From: Pete Lucas <PJML%UK.AC.NWL.IA@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU> NERC-SWINDON

Subject: Antennas 'Umbrella-shaped'

Antenna that looks like a big inverted umbrella - looking in my ANDREW catalog there are various versions of this - they are all broadband HF antennas (typically 3-30MHz or 1.6-32MHz). My book shows them with up to 160Kw peak handling capacity, with a SWR of less than 2.0:1 throughout the design operating range (envy envy...)

Wouldnt like to be in the room below a 160Kw transmitting antenna though!

They are omni-directional and known either as 'Spira-cone' or 'Mono-cone' antennas (both being trademarks of Andrew Inc. Orland Park IL)

The ANDREW catalog is worth browsing through - full of nice products for professional/military applications HF through microwaves.

See if you can get your hands on a catalog - you will go green with envy!!!!!!

Prices are as high as you would expect for 'professional' products though... (shame, shame!)

G6WBJ

>--Pete--<

Please use the following addresses for reply:

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Date: 28 Oct 89 07:06:56 GMT
From: pilchuck!ssc!tad@uunet.uu.net (Tad Cook)
Subject: Guemes Island followup

In Rick's posting:

>>
>> Tad, KT7H says:
>>
>> Actually, Rule 3b stands alone. But if you choose to interpret it as
>> part of Rule 3a, the mileage figure is 75 miles, not 275 miles.
>> Guemes, in relation to Tatoosh, meets this test. But rule 3b

>Are you saying these two islands are more than 75 miles from the
>mainland? My understanding was that you could actually see Guemes
>from the US mainland. That would be less than 75 miles normally.

N6RK

Tad says:

Nope! The islands are more than 75 miles apart. That's what I meant
when I said "Guemes, in relation to Tatoosh".

But, of course this mileage test you mentioned is part of a DIFFERENT
rule. Rule 3b SPECIFICALLY excludes any mileage test when it says "No
minimum distance is required".

Regarding where you can see Guemes from, you get there by a small ferry
that runs from Fidalgo Island across a narrow channel. You can see
Guemes across the channel.

73,

Tad Cook
tad@ssc.UUCP
KT7H @ N7HFZ

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 89 18:32:21 EDT
From: Joseph Skoler <SKOHC@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU>

Subject: Hammurland

Hi,
does anyone know anything about the Hammurland model FM 500C?
I wonder if it's a VHF amp - the input coils look too long
to be near 2 meter, looks more like 50 mhz.

Thanks for reading this.

Joseph R. Skoler
skohc@cunyvnm
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44.68.0.56]

Date: Fri, 27 Oct 89 13:42:31 CDT
From: Will Martin <wmartin@STL-06SIMA.ARMY.MIL>
Subject: info on Crystal Radio kit or schematic

There's a place called Antique Electronic Supply that advertises in the ham
mags and in Radio-Electronics and Popular Communications. Here is an
address and phone for them that appeared on the net late last year:

Antique Electronic Supply
688 W. 1st St.
Tempe, Az 85281

(602) 894-9503

I have their catalog at home but no reference here so I can't verify
that this is current and correct info, but it should be a good starting
place even if it has changed.

They sell several different crystal radio kits, ranging from breadboard
types to ones in cases that emulate antique models.

Regards, Will

Date: Fri, 27 Oct 89 20:08:47 CDT
From: rlwest@flop2.csc.ti.com (Bob West - WA8YCD - DSEG/HRD Computer Systems
Training - MSG HRD1 - 995-1908)
Subject: Looking for comments on ham demos

Yeah, Frank, I saw Phil's INFOHAMS posting. I gotta admit, I agree with him,

from a common sense attitude. You sometimes gotta trade off DRAMA (read that HOLDING THEIR ATTENTION) for SAFETY (read that COVER YOUR OWN BEHIND)...

(sarcasm mode engaged...)

:-) Maybe if you're in a hospital with a bunch of sick kids, it might not be a great idea, but hey, they got doctors and nurses there on the spot, right!?!

:-) Or maybe you could electrocute mice, just make all the kids sign an agreement that they won't leak it to the SPCA...

(...end sarcasm mode)

I was a lecture demonstrator for a university physics department for a while and we were always doing stuff to students, like making their hair fly up with a vandeGraaf generator and making chains and having one hold a flourescent tube and firing up the tesla coil...

If anything had happened, the university **could** have gotten into a doozie of a lawsuit, but in the years I had the job, and the five or six years my predecessor had it, and the fifteen or so years *-his-* predecessor was on the job, there were no unhappy incidents. I suppose we were (a) lucky and (b) too dumb to know better.

The more dangerous stuff, **I** got to do...

Of course, I did all kinds of dumb stuff as a kid, like setting off firecrackers in a coffee can and pouring vinegar and baking soda in a bufferin bottle and throwing it at the neighbor kid and I even got an old neon sign transformer and made a jacob's ladder once. Safety? That was for wimps, not me!

I didn't have any concept of that sort of thing then. But I sure had a lot of fun!

A very good friend of mine in college was blinded and lost part of his right hand by playing with fulmonate of mercury when he was a kid. He **was** a ham and I had talked to him on the air for six months before I knew anything about him. He went on to get his PhD in computer science.

One thing I have noticed watching Mr. Wizard on Nickelodeon is he is very safety conscious nowadays. He always makes the kids wear safety glasses and tells them not to do the fire experiments unless a parent or other adult is around. I **have** seen him burn wires and set hydrogen balloons on fire and do some of the dramatic stuff, but always with a care for safety.

It takes some of the excitement out of it. But it still makes the point.
Sort of.

Oh well, I suppose there *are* safe ways to learn. The problem you pointed out, that kids today are jaded by star wars and high tech, is one to keep professional educators on the ulcer medicine. I've seen teachers who can naturally and comfortably engage students and many who just throw up their hands and ride the wave.

Maybe a shock or two will wake them up.

73, and keep on smilin'!

Bob WA8YCD

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/ Bob West WA8YCD      | "I didn't know you were gonna do Social Studies!" \
| RLWEST@FLOPN2.CSC.TI.COM | "Whaddya mean? That was Kirchoff's Law!" |
| WA8YCD@W5T00.TX.USA.NA  | "Yeah! CURRENT Events!" |
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Date: Thu, 26 Oct 89 07:37:07 EDT
From: Mike Owen W9IP <MROWEN%STLAWU.BITNET@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU>
Subject: Madison Electronics

The question about Madison Electronics in Houston reminds me of a slightly amazing thing that happened to me there, long ago. Max, the owner (SK?), answered a question for me regarding biasing 813s. The entire exchange lasted less than three minutes. He didn't know me, young high school punk. I returned to Madison's FOUR years later (not having been there in between), and he instantly recognized me and asked about the 813 amplifier. What a memory.

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 89 18:29:50 EDT
From: Joseph Skoler <SKOHC@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU>
Subject: Phone Patch Construction question

Greetings,

If this msg has already reached the news group, please excuse.

I wonder if someone would take a moment and answer some not state-of-

the-art questions. I am thinking about setting up a private phone patch on 2 meters. It would cover only about a 2 mile radius.

My first question concerns the legality and accpetability of this. Of course, I would make certain the freq is not used by a repeater, or packet or any other group.

Secondly, how cheaply can this be done. I have a rig at home and an old yaesu phone patch (model 11 301). I assume I would hook up a vox circuit on either the tel line or the radio line, but I wonder if it poses a problem because it will be simplex. I was thinking about getting a subaudible tone decoder for the home station. Also, would I need a tone burst detector unit for control of various functions?

As you can see, I don't have much experience with this sort of thing. Any suggestions and comments would be appreciated.

73, Joseph Skoler, kc2yu
SKOHC@CUNYVM
kc2yu@nn2z.nj
44.68.0.56]

Date: Fri, 27 Oct 89 15:06:11 BST
From: Pete Lucas <PJML%UK.AC.NWL.IA@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU> NERC-SWINDON
Subject: Soldering PL259 connectors? Why bother!

Why, oh why, do manufacturers insist on fitting PL259/S0239 connectors to their gear? A more horrible connector for RF is hard to think of. (anyone remember RCA Phono-plugs being used for RF wiring some years back?) At anything above DC, the PL259 is horribly lossy and non-constant-impedance. Unless you tighten them up real tight (like with a small pipe wrench!) they unscrew themselves and oxidise after a few years. They then get hot with RF! The worst ones are the 'S0239-on-a-flying-lead' fitted to some of the modern mobile rigs (and this at 144/220/430MHz too!!) which seem to plumb new depths of flimsy construction. Whilst we can't all afford to go for 'N' connectors at HF, anyone interested in long term reliability should studiously avoid S0239 'UHF' types. Specially avoid those where the center insulator melts when you solder the inner. If you must use them, get ones with PTFE insulation (which costs a bit more but stands solder temperatures without melting away...) If you must use PL259, spend a bit more cash and get good quality connectors (I can recommend Greenpar). Long live BNC/TNC (specially above 30MHZ). Try thinking of S0239's as 'screened test-prod connectors'. Throw 'em out and fit something 'constant impedance'. Also, how come there seem to be two different threads on the S0239? Jap and 'Rest-of-the-world' ? They wont mate!

>-=Pete=-<

End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #815
